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SOURCE Bakinskiy Rabochiy.

PROGRESS OF AZERBAIDZHAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY
IN FIRST 4 MONTHS OF 1953

On 28 May 1953, before a meeting of the Party Aktiv of the Azerbaydzhan SSR, M. D. Bagirov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Azerbaydzhan SSR, delivered a report containing information on the progress of the Azerbaydzhan petroleum industry during the first 4 months of 1953. Bagirov reported the following data.

The Azerbaydzhan petroleum industry, as a whole, fulfilled the plan for the first 4 months of 1953 by 98.1 percent. During the 4 months, the Azneftezavody Association failed to deliver production valued at 27 million rubles, and the Azneftemash Trust failed to deliver production valued at 4 million rubles.

With respect to its basic activity, refining, the Azneftezavody Association, faced with a plan figure for lowering the cost of production by 4,730,000 rubles, effected a reduction of only 2,100,000 rubles. The Azneftemash Trust, faced with a plan figure for lowering the cost of production of 3,330,000 rubles, effected a reduction of only 30,000 rubles. Losses as a result of defective production in the Azneftemash Trust amounted to 1,130,000 rubles in the first quarter 1953.

A failure to fulfill qualitative indexes characterized not only enterprises failing to fulfill the quantitative plan but also a number of enterprises which fulfilled the plan. The Azerbaydzhan petroleum producing industry was typical in this regard.

The 4-month plan for the production of both petroleum and gas was exceeded by the Azneft' Association; 25,354 tons of petroleum and 13,417,000 cubic meters of gas were produced above the plan. The plan for drilling work in the association was fulfilled by 111.3 percent.

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The following trusts exceeded the 4-month plan: Gyurgyanef't', Molotovneft', Buzovnyneft', Stalinneft', Siazanneft', and Kirovneft'. The following trusts failed to fulfill the 4-month plan: Kaganovichneft', Artemneft', and Kirovabadneft'. Of 76 oil fields, 47 fulfilled the 4-month plan. These 47 oil fields produced 76,515 tons of petroleum above the plan. The 29 oil fields failing to fulfill the plan became indebted to the country in the amount of 53,161 tons of petroleum. Of 259 brigades, 111 failed to fulfill the 4-month plan for petroleum production.

In the Azneft' Association, during the first 4 months of 1953, 672 oil wells were put into operation as a result of drilling, capital repair, and the restoration of idle wells. During the same period, 362 wells went out of operation. The worst ratios occurred in the following trusts: Stalinneft', where 94 wells were put into operation and 60 wells went out of operation; Ordzhonikidzeneft', where the figures were 58 and 47; and Kaganovichneft', with figures of 47 and 47.

There were serious shortcomings in the field of drilling in the Azneft' Association during the first 4 months of 1953. Although the plan for total depth of drilling (prokhodka) was exceeded, the drilling of only 365 oil wells was completed, instead of the 372 planned. Of this total, only 72 exploratory wells were completed, as compared with 85 planned. Of 275 drilling rigs located at drilling sites throughout the Azneft' Association, only 168 made headway. At exploration sites in general, only 47 rigs out of 82 made headway; and at offshore exploratory sites, only 14 rigs out of 31 made headway.

A neglectful attitude with respect to economy measures during the first quarter 1953 in the Azneft' Association, including Azmorneft', resulted in too high a cost of production. The cost of production per ton of petroleum was 2 rubles, 2 kopecks higher than planned.

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